

Just recently I got engaged in conversation with some Christian brothers and sisters about the Israel/ Hamas War and the question came up concerning the origins of most Jews in Israel today.

This has actually been the subject of much discussion for a long time and there are a variety of answers out there. Some believe the modern-day Jews are all from the tribe of Judah, whereas the prevailing view in many Evangelical Churches is that they include all of ancient Israel.

Yet there is another opinion, held by a number of secular, Jewish, and Christian scholars, that the majority of Jews today, not only in Israel, but worldwide, are not the true descendants of Jacob at all!

Adherents to this point of view insist they are Jews by religion only, and not by blood, because, according to extensive historical and DNA Research, their genome is Khazar, which is of Turkish Mongol DNA. Today they are referred to as Ashkenazi Jews. This scientific research also shows many Palestinians actually have more Israelite blood than these Khazar Jews.

Some holding to this belief also say the majority of these Khazar Jews originated from the ancient Edomites. For the reader's benefit, the Edomites were descended from Esau, Jacob's twin brother, and were constantly at war with the children of Israel throughout Biblical History.

As can be expected, these opposing standpoints have caused a lot of confusion for people. But as usual, the Bible is where we should look for the answer and it appears to raise an important objection to what we have seen so far!

Many of the Old Testament Prophets predicted the total destruction of the Edomites for how they had ill-treated the people of Israel during their many trials and disciplines. Take for instance Obadiah. He said, "*and there shall be no survivor of the house of Esau.*"

The beginning of this prophecy came to pass when the Babylonian army invaded Edom and defeated the nation, although not completely. After this, they were again defeated by the Maccabees, and some became an active part of the Jewish people.

However, the final blow came at the hand of the Romans. There seems to be no historical or archaeological records of what happened to the Edomites after that, although some historians say their few remaining descendants were absorbed into the surrounding Arab countries!

Now, in saying this, we are not denying the historical and scientific evidence mentioned above. It is more likely some authors have taken it and slightly exaggerated as far as number is concerned!

But regarding many Palestinians having Israelite DNA, this should come as no surprise and can be easily verified from a quick glance over history.

The Greeks began using the term *Palestine* for the whole region between Egypt and Phoenicia. Eventually, after the Jewish-Roman Wars of the First and Second Centuries A.D., the Romans began using the term *Syria Palaestina* for the entire area previously covered by Judea and Samaria. The name for the region remained over the centuries and included a variety of peoples, including Christian, Arab and Jew.

Therefore, the term *Palestinian* simply referred to the people who lived in Palestine. This is why the late Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir, identified herself in a public interview as “a Palestinian,” who “carried a Palestinian passport.”